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Viewsletter

MASS, SPACE AND TIME

The So Very Little We Know: Man Has Much To Learn

It is well accepted, today, that mass, space and time are related to one another.

It is one of the essential rules that has been found, tested, and fully accepted in respect of aspects of the universe, thanks to the work of Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Scientists, today, are attempting to discover much more of that which must be the rules of the universe — for they must exist, it is well accepted.

Today, it is well known that the collapse of formerly giant stars in the universe, for one reason or another, is one or more of the reasons for the creation of black holes in regions of space.

A black hole is defined as being regions in space that gravity, just beneath its surface — named formerly as 'event horizon,' is sufficiently strong that nothing — not even light — can escape.

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At the centre of a black hole — it has been given the nomenclature, 'singularity,' — but scientists, the world over, have little information of this point, being infinitively small and infinitively dense.

Scientists are well aware that they know very little about the universe, how stars are created and, seemingly, how stars 'die,' and why and how, try as they may, it might be many billions of eons for them ever to learn how giant stars were — and are — created — as we know them, today — and what, if any, there are life forms — as we know them in man's thinking, today — on some or the many millions of stars, about which they know absolutely nothing.

Many of the aspects, mentioned above — and there must be many more aspects, of course — might be likened to that which many world-be loquacious scientists and economists try to make seemingly determinations which, to some degree, seem to have quintessential aspects, whereas that which they make claims that, to a very great degree, are, at best, garrulous.

The following are some of the aspects about which man acknowledges in that which are thought to be today's great pool of man's simplicity knowledge, compared to that of the empty void of the universe yet to be understood.

Part Eight

The Republic of India is the seventh-largest country by area; the most populous country since 2023; and, since its independence in 1947, the world's most populous democracy.

The total current population, as at the latest 2025 statistics, was 1,454,606,724, a 0.89-percent increase compared with the 2022 statistics.

The total population in 2022 was 1,425,423,212, a 0.79-percent increase from 2021.

The Fertility Rate is said to be 2.01 births per woman, according to the 2022 World Bank statistics.

The **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, as at the 2023-Year, stood at \$US3.568 trillion, according to The World Bank.

And yet, with all of the aforementioned, many questions are being asked, today, as to the best future for The Republic of India.

It is undeniable that, in the coming decades or so, the growth of The Republic of India might well continue to strengthen, albeit probably at a different rate than today's level, but it is quite likely, also, that the country might not be able to hold onto some of its present ability to exercise influence or authority.

According to Doctor Ashley J. Tellis, a Senior Fellow and Inaugural Chair at The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, he, being specialising in international security, defence, and Asian strategic issues, has raised a questionable future in respect of a number of aspects, confronting The Republic of India.

The following are some of the many thoughts of Doctor Ashley J. Tellis:

THE INDIAN DELUSION

'In the coming decades, India will grow undeniably stronger, but less able to wield that strength in meaningful ways with less global sway.

'New Delhi does not want a world in which Washington is perpetually the sole superpower.

'Instead, it seeks a multipolar international system, in which The Republic of India would rank as a genuine great power.

'It aims to restrain not just The People's Republic of China – the near-term challenge – but also any country that would aspire to singular, hegemonic dominance, including The United States of America.

'Although The Republic of India has grown in economic strength over the past two decades, it is not growing fast enough to balance The People's Republic of China, let alone The United States of America – even in the long term.

'The Republic of India will become a great power, in terms of relative GDP, by mid-century – but it is unlikely to be a superpower.

'In military terms, it is the most significant conventional power in South Asia, but here, too, its advantages over its local rival are not enormous – with The People's Republic of China on one side, and an adversarial Pakistan on the other, The Republic of India must always fear the prospect of an unpalatable two-front war.

'Meanwhile, at home, the country is shedding one of its main sources of strength: Its liberal democracy, by embracing Hindu nationalism.

'India's relative weakness, its yearning for multipolarity, and its illiberal trajectory, mean that it will have less global influence than it desires even when it can justifiably consider itself a great power.

'Becoming the fourth (or possibly the third) largest economy in the world, it should be able to herald a dramatic expansion of a country's clout, but that will not be the case for The Republic of India.

'Even by (the year, 2047) – the centenary of its independence – it might still have to rely on foreign partners to ward off Chinese power.

'And because of its perennial discomfort with alliances, or even with close partnerships, securing external support, could be challenging, especially as The United States of America grows more transactional in its foreign policy – and, also, if Washington comes to fear New Delhi as a competitor.

'New Delhi and Washington have made important strides together toward balancing Chinese power in recent years, but The Republic of India's diffidence about a tight partnership with The United States of America frustrates this outcome.

'The economic ties between the two are not as strong as they could be, given the countries' natural complementarities.

'But the biggest constraint is the preoccupation of The Republic of India with promoting multipolarity through multi-alignment, which presumes that The Republic of India will become a meaningful peer of The People's Republic of China, The United States of America, and Europe, sometime soon and, consequently, will be able to balance The People's Republic of China on its own.

'Not only is this prospect nowhere in sight, but it, also, prevents the crafting of a genuine cooperative defence against The People's Republic of China.

'Furthermore, the reluctance of the Government of The Republic of India to partner more closely with The United States of America in building a cooperative defence, however understandable, thus makes balancing against The People's Republic of China difficult.

'If New Delhi cannot effectively balance The People's Republic of China in Asia, Washington will invariably ponder how many resources, as well as how much faith, it should invest in India?

'To be sure, a narrower U.S.-Indian relationship, centered on interests, not values, will not be a disaster for either country.

'But it would represent shrunken ambitions.

'The transformation of the bilateral ties between the two countries after the Cold War was once conceived as a way to help improve and uphold the liberal international order.

'Now, that relationship could be largely limited to trying to constrain a common competitor: To wit, The People's Republic of China.

'And if so, neither The Republic of India nor The United States of America, nor the world at large, will be the better for it.'

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